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COUNTRY **Austria (Russian Zone)**
SUBJECT **Industrial Guards in Soviet-controlled Installations in Austria**

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. Organization

The Werkschutz (industrial guard) central headquarters is at Boecklinstrasse 57, Vienna II. A subordinate office known as Headquarters of the Military Industrial Guard of the Oil Administration (Kommando des Militaerischen Werkschutzes der Mineraloelverwaltung) is located in Kantgasse, Vienna I. This is the headquarters of the guard corps assigned to Soviet-controlled oil fields and refineries. **Comment:** The Central Administration of Soviet Oil Enterprises in Austria has its main office at Kantgasse 1, and an office listed as the administration of its Fire Guard at Boecklinstrasse 57. The Oil Administration Werkschutz is divided into two sections known as Staff 1 (Stab 1) and Staff 2 (Stab 2).

Stab 1

Stab 1 units guard the Korneuburg and Lobau refineries, as well as the Stab 1 motor pool at Wasserturm, Vienna X. No further particulars on Stab 1 are available.

Stab 2

Stab 2 is the industrial guard corps for the oil fields at Zistersdorf, Goesting, Hauskirchen, Prinzendorf, Bannernedorf, Neusiedl, Altlichtenwarth, and Maustrenk. Stab 2 has its command headquarters at Neusiedl an der Zaya, and is organized as follows:

Commanding Officer:

Captain POISKOF, Soviet

Deputy:

Major Lorenz HIEBL, Austrian; former leader of Austrian Freedom Fighters (Freiheitskämpfer)

Chief of Staff:

Captain NOWAK, Austrian

Assistant Chief of Staff:

Lt. BAILAS

Control Unit:

A group of officers. 1st Lt. FEUBER is a member of this unit; the names of the other members are not available.

CLASSIFICATION

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~~SECRET~~ Comment: If TEUBER is identical with TIEBL, mentioned below, this Control Unit would appear to be an internal security section.)

Investigation Unit:

A group of civilian criminal investigators. The chief is Rudolf SCHAR, allegedly a former member of the Vienna Criminal Police. He is said to be feared and hated by Zistersdorf workers. In September 1947, an Austrian employee of one of the installations in the Zistersdorf area made a statement to the Austrian Police in which he described his interrogation at Werkschutz headquarters in Neusiedl. He claimed that physical brutality was employed in order to force him to sign a false confession of attempted theft. The officer who ordered the interrogation was 1st Lt. TIEBL. Comment: TIEBL may be identical with TEUBER mentioned above.)

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Motor Pool

Stab 2 operates a motor pool, which has about 160 trucks, several passenger cars, and some German prime movers, all with Soviet licence plates. A driver and an assistant are assigned to each vehicle. None of the drivers is Austrian; some are women.

Guard Corps:

Stab 2 guards comprise eight companies (Zuege), each of which is divided into three platoons (Gruppen) of from sixty to one hundred men. Platoon strength varies according to the size of the area to be guarded and because some members of each group are usually absent on account of illness. The following is an incomplete roster of Stab 2 company commanders and platoon leaders:

Sergeant Wilhelm SCHADEN

-- Company Commander assigned to Firma DEA in Neusiedl an der Zaya.

Platoon Leaders

Ferdinand LEISSER
Frenz BERGER, lives in Wiener Neustadt
SCHUSCHITZ.

Sergeant Johann BENEDIK

Company Commander assigned to Firma van Sickle in Neusiedl; lives in Hohenau.

Platoon Leaders

Johann TURITSCHKE; lives in Rabsenburg,
Eduard LINDL (or LENOL)

Sergeant BARTL

Company Commander assigned to Muehlberg.

Sergeant HABER

Company Commander to Muehlberg; lives in Hohenau.

Sergeant Johann RAUSCHER

Company Commander assigned to Zistersdorf

Sergeant Robert SPERRL

Company Commander assigned to Zistersdorf

Sergeant PONGRATZ

Company Commander assigned to Hauskirchen

Platoon Leader

Florian EBNER

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Comment: It is known that Werkschutz units are assigned to guard USIA factories and munitions dumps in Burgenland and Lower Austria. Source is unable to provide information on the organizational breakdown of the USIA Werkschutz.)

- II. Former members of the Austrian Freedom Fighters, particularly former members of that organization's Third Battalion, form the nucleus of the Werkschutz. Applicants apply to Major HIEBL in Neusiedl an der Zaya. He forwards the applications with his recommendations to Vienna headquarters, where candidates must apply for final approval. Only Communists are accepted. Most Werkschutz members are Austrians from Lower Austria and Vienna, but there are some Czechs and Yugoslavs. Guards are on duty for two consecutive days, and off duty for four days. During the days when they are not on guard duty they are required to take part in military drill and to attend political indoctrination classes. This training is considered confidential. Military drill and political courses are also obligatory for Fire Guard members. It is said that within the next two weeks twenty members of Werkschutz Stab 2 will be discharged because they are not considered reliable. Major HIEBL now holds a list of the names of these men.

III. Uniforms

The Werkschutz uniform is black and consists of long trousers, a long jacket with open collar and four pockets, a black cap with leather visor, a cloth or leather belt and an overcoat. All Werkschutz members are armed with rifles of German, Czechoslovak, or English manufacture. Leaders and officers carry German model 08 pistols or machine pistols. Comment: Photographs of Werkschutz members in uniform are available.) 25X1A

IV. Payment

Guards are paid about 800 schillings a month. A company commander gets 1200 schillings and a platoon leader 1500 schillings a month.

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